

he then felt compelled to hide because of the negative attitudes of his time. Well, we've come a long way since those days. And even though we in public life get to make the speeches, I think it's clear to all of us that you deserve the credit—all of the work you have done.

People with disabilities are increasingly a powerful presence in America, from our schools to our businesses to the halls of government—but maybe equally important, increasingly a welcome, comfortable, normal presence. President Roosevelt said, “No country, no matter how rich, can afford to waste its human resources.” This is really all about living up to that objective.

Thank you, Karen. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. Let's go out and pass this legislation. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:58 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to polio survivor and transit system dispatcher Karen Moore, who introduced the President: Tony Coelho, Chairman, President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities; Rebecca Ogle, Executive Director, National Task Force on Employment of Adults With Disabilities; Justin Dart, Jr., chairman and founder, Justice For All; Paul Marchand, chairman, Consortium for Citizens With Disabilities; Paul Steven Miller, Commissioner, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; five-time National Basketball Association MVP Michael Jordan, who announced his retirement; and poet Maya Angelou. The President also referred to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Amendments of 1997, Public Law 105–17.

Statement on the Retirement of Michael Jordan

January 13, 1999

Today's retirement announcement by Michael Jordan marks a sad day for all those who love basketball and for sports fans around the world. In his many years on the court, Michael brought superhuman skill and unmatched athleticism, competitive fire, dedication, and teamwork to the all-American sport he loves. Like those other American pioneers, the Wright brothers, Michael Jordan proved that humans can indeed fly.

Beyond his uncanny ability to defy gravity or hit the crucial shot when everything depended on it, Michael showed generations of young

sports fans how to be a good person while being a great champion. Although we will miss seeing him play, we know at least that his career ended exactly as it should have, with one last game-winning basket to bring the Chicago Bulls their sixth championship.

As a daughter of Chicago, Hillary is especially sorry to see him go. We wish Michael, Juanita, and their family all the best in the future.

NOTE: This statement was released by the Office of the Press Secretary as a statement by the President and the First Lady.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Reporting a Certification Required by the Ratification Resolution of the Chemical Weapons Convention

January 13, 1999

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

In accordance with the resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, adopted by the Senate of the United States on April 24, 1997, I

hereby certify in connection with Condition (7)(C)(i), Effectiveness of Australia Group, that:

Australia Group members continue to maintain an equally effective or more comprehensive control over the export of: toxic chemicals and their precursors, dual-use